

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

By all indications,  
this is a blatant  
pro-Bush campaign ad  
thinly veiled as a  
news documentary.  
Sinclair is  
obviously hoping to  
dodge its  
public-interest  
obligations to push  
the political  
agendas of its  
management, and  
affect the outcome  
of the upcoming  
election.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. But when  
large companies  
control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
of the corporation  
and its directors,  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy,  
substantive and  
balanced news about  
issues that matter.

I firmly believe  
that Sinclair's  
actions demonstrate  
a significant,  
growing danger that  
is already eating  
away at the health  
of our democracy,  
and show why we need  
to strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard. Thank you.

Dave Beyer  
Los Altos Hills, CA  
dave@beyer.name